

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 02440 01 OF 02 181123Z

10

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 /084 W

----- 078361

P R 181112Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8375

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 02440

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, LI

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA - LIBERIA: VORSTER-TOLBERT MEET-
ING

REF: STATE 035706; STATE 035707

SUMMARY: LONDON TIMES FEBRUARY 17, HAS FRONT-PAGE RE-
PORT OF FEBRUARY 12 MEETING BETWEEN LIBERIAN PRESIDENT
TOLBERT AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER BASED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 02440 01 OF 02 181123Z

ON SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TWO LEADERS WHICH

TIMES CLAIMS TO HAVE RECEIVED FROM "RELIABLE SOURCE." TEXT OF SUMMARY CARRIED ON INSIDE PAGE AND IS BEING POUCHED TO ALL ADDRESSEES OF THIS MESSAGE. INITIATIVE FOR TALKS CAME FROM VORSTER ACCORDING TO TIMES. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED THE STATUS OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS, SOUTH AFRICA'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. ON FOLLOWING DAY, FEBRUARY 18, TIMES CARRIES VORSTER STATEMENT TO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT VISIT TOOK PLACE, CLAIMING DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD ISSUE STATEMENT CLARIFYING ERRORS IN TIMES REPORT AND DENYING RESPONSIBILITY FOR TIMES ACCOUNT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FRONT-PAGE STORY ON FEBRUARY 17, LONDON TIMES CLAIMS SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FOREIGN MINISTER DR. MULLER, SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS D. G. FOURIE AND THE HEAD OF THE BUREAU FOR STATE SECURITY GENERAL H. J. VAN DEN BERGH MADE A SECRET VISIT TO LIBERIA ON FEBRUARY 11 AND 12. THIS REPORT FOLLOWED OTHER PRESS REPORTS OVER WEEKEND OF VISITS TO SOUTH AFRICA BY AN UNOFFICIAL TRADE MISSION OF NIGERIAN BUSINESSMEN AND A MINISTERIAL DELEGATION FROM THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

2. FRONT-PAGE STORY IS BASED ON "SUMMARY" OF FEBRUARY 12 MEETING BETWEEN VORSTER AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT, FOREIGN MINISTER CECIL DENNIS, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS REGINALD TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND'S DEPUTY BURLEIGH HOLDER. TIMES CLAIMS "SUMMARY" CAME FROM "A RELIABLE SOURCE," BUT GIVES NO INDICATION WHERE IT WAS OBTAINED. INITIATIVE FOR TALKS, ACCORDING TO TIMES, CAME FROM VORSTER.

3. AFTER EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, TOLBERT REPORTEDLY OPENED SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE "DEEPLY CONCERNED" ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA AND COMPLETELY "IDENTIFIED" HIMSELF WITH ASPIRATIONS AND DESIRES OF AFRICAN PEOPLE TO ENJOY "HUMAN DIGNITY, JUSTICE, MUTUAL RESPECT AND FAIR PLAY." VORSTER'S LENGTHY REPLY STRESSED HIS POLICY OF MOVING OUTWARD TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH AFRICANS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 02440 01 OF 02 181123Z

AND WORK ON "POINTS OF AGREEMENT." INTER ALIA VORSTER CLAIMED ALL RACES IN SOUTH AFRICA RECEIVED EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK AND THERE IS NO LAW WHICH SAID EMPLOYERS COULD NOT PAY BLACKMEN "A CERTAIN SALARY." IN RESPONSE TO TOLBERT'S CONCERN OVER FRAGMENTATION OF HOMELANDS, VORSTER REPLIED THAT "ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT FORESEE A HOMELAND SUCH AS THAT OF THE KWAZULUS EVER BEING CONSOLIDATED, CONSOLIDATIONS OF THE HOMELANDS WAS A PROCESS THAT

WOULD GO ON." (SIC)

4. ON NAMIBIA TOLBERT EXPRESSED STRONG FEELING INDEPENDENCE WAS ESSENTIAL AND THAT IT SHOULD COME NOW. IF STEPS TAKEN IN THIS DIRECTION, LIBERIA PREPARED TO GIVE EVERY ASSISTANCE IT COULD. IN REPLY VORSTER SAID SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT WANT "AN INCH OF SOUTH-WEST AFRICA'S TERRITORY" AND WOULD BE "ONLY TOO PLEASED TO GET SWA OFF OUR BACKS." HE THEN DENOUNCED SWAPO LEADER SAM NUJOMO AS AN "ADVENTURER" NOT A "LEADER OF THE PEOPLES OF SWA."

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 02440 02 OF 02 181123Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 /084 W

----- 078379

P R 181112Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8376

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 02440

VORSTER AGREED WITH TOLBERT THAT NAMIBIA/SOUTH WEST AFRICA HAS A RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT IT.

5. ON RHODESIA, TOLBERT EXPRESSED "APPRECIATION OF THE ACTION ALREADY TAKEN BY SOUTH AFRICA" AND ASKED THE SAG TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS AND PERSUADE THE SMITH REGIME TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT AND JUST. VORSTER NOTED THAT HE WAS IN A "DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION" AS HE MUST BE ABLE TO ASSURE HIS PEOPLE THAT VIOLENCE HAS STOPPED BEFORE HE CAN WITHDRAW THE POLICE. HE CALLED ON THE "BLACKS" TO LOOK FOR A "SOLUTION AND NOT A SURRENDER OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 02440 02 OF 02 181123Z

THE WHITES" OTHERWISE THE "WHITES WILL FIGHT." VORSTER THEN CLAIMED THAT "IF THERE ARE NO PRECONDITIONS AND IF THE VIOLENCE STOPS, I CAN GUARANTEE THAT A SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND." BUT "IF BRITAIN OR ANY OTHER NATION INTERFERES THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE." SOUTH AFRICA, VORSTER CONCLUDED, HAD BROUGHT THE RHODESIANS TOGETHER AND WOULD DO ALL WITHIN ITS POWER TO KEEP THEM TOGETHER TO TRY TO FIND A SOLUTION.

6. ACCORDING TO SUMMARY, "FORMAL DISCUSSION" ENDED WITH UNITED AGREEMENT THAT "WHOLE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA MUST BE GIVEN INDEPENDENCE AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA MUST SAY WHEN AND HOW INDEPENDENCE WOULD COME ABOUT." TIMES DID NOT CARRY ANY REPORT OF ANY OTHER DISCUSSIONS. FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY SAID "IT IS BELIEVED" VORSTER IMPRESSED LIBERIANS AS "MAN OF COURAGE" AND SEEMED "GENUINE IN HIS VIEWS AND, WITHIN HIS POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS, EVEN MODERATE IN HIS PERSONAL OUTLOOK."

7. ON FEBRUARY 18, TIMES CARRIED REPORT FROM CAPETOWN THAT PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAD: A) GIVEN BRIEF STATEMENT TO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON FEBRUARY 17, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT TIMES REPORT HE HAD VISITED LIBERIA WAS CORRECT WHILE DENYING THAT TIMES REPORT OF DISCUSSIONS THERE CAME FROM SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION; B) LATER SAID DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD PROBABLY ISSUE STATEMENT RECTIFYING SOME OF THE ERRORS IN THE TIMES REPORT.

SPIERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON02440
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750057-0498
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750236/aaaabfvk.tel
Line Count: 216
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 035706; STATE 035707
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by McShalBA>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH AFRICA - LIBERIA: VORSTER-TOLBERT MEET- ING
TAGS: PFOR, SF, LI, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES), (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006